



## Senate

General Assembly

January Session, 2003

**File No. 245**

Senate Bill No. 553

*Senate, April 9, 2003*

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. MURPHY of the 16th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

### **AN ACT CONCERNING THE CAMP HARKNESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17a-217a of the general statutes is repealed and  
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):

3 (a) There shall be a Camp Harkness Advisory Committee to advise  
4 the Commissioner of Mental Retardation with respect to issues  
5 concerning the health and safety of persons who attend and utilize the  
6 facilities at Camp Harkness. The advisory committee shall be  
7 composed of [~~eleven~~] twelve members as follows: (1) The director of  
8 Camp Harkness, who shall serve ex officio, one member representing  
9 the Southeastern Connecticut Association for the Retarded, one  
10 member representing the Southbury Training School, one member  
11 representing the Association for Retarded Citizens of New London  
12 County, one consumer representing persons who use the camp on a  
13 residential basis and one member representing parents or guardians of

14 persons who use the camp, all of whom shall be appointed by the  
15 Governor; (2) one member representing parents or guardians of  
16 persons who use the camp, who shall be appointed by the president  
17 pro tempore of the Senate; (3) one consumer from the Family Support  
18 Council established pursuant to section 17a-219c representing persons  
19 who use the camp on a day basis, who shall be appointed by the  
20 speaker of the House of Representatives; (4) one member representing  
21 the board of selectmen of the town of Waterford, who shall be  
22 appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives; (5)  
23 one member representing the Camp Harkness Booster Club, who shall  
24 be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; (6) one member  
25 representing the Connecticut Institute for the Blind and the Oak Hill  
26 School, who shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
27 Representatives; and (7) one member representing the United Cerebral  
28 Palsy Association, who shall be appointed by the minority leader of  
29 the Senate.

30 (b) The advisory committee shall promote communication  
31 regarding camp services and develop recommendations for the  
32 commissioner regarding the use of Camp Harkness.

33 (c) Not later than October 1, 2002, and annually thereafter, the  
34 advisory committee shall submit a report to the commissioner and to  
35 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
36 cognizance of matters relating to public health concerning the status of  
37 Camp Harkness. Such report shall be submitted in accordance with  
38 section 11-4a.

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows: |                 |
| Section 1                              | October 1, 2003 |

**PH**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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***OFA Fiscal Note******State Impact:***

| <b>Agency Affected</b>           | <b>Effect</b> |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Department of Mental Retardation | None          |

Note: GF=General Fund

***Municipal Impact:*** None

***Explanation***

The bill adds a member to the Camp Harkness Advisory Committee and will not result in a cost to the Department of Mental Retardation.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

SB 553

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE CAMP HARKNESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE****SUMMARY:**

This bill adds one member representing the Association for Retarded Citizens of New London County to the Camp Harkness Advisory Committee. This member must be appointed by the governor and brings the total membership to 12. The advisory committee advises the Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) commissioner on health and safety issues concerning camp users.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

**BACKGROUND*****Camp Harkness***

Camp Harkness is a 102-acre parcel in Waterford that was originally part of the Harkness family estate. The property was willed to the state and donated for "public health." DMR has administrative responsibility for the camp. The camp is open year-round to pass holders (individuals and organizations serving people with disabilities) for day and overnight use.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 20      Nay 0